

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Reply, claims 1-22 will remain in this application. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The amendments set forth above are for clarity only and are not being made in view of any prior art.

Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,667,149 to Eisinger. Figures 7 and 8 of the Eisinger patent were specifically mentioned by the Examiner in this rejection. Reconsideration of the rejection is requested.

Figures 7 and 8 of the Eisinger patent show an air port ring 70 containing multiple fixed angle nozzles 72 in combination with multiple adjustable angle type nozzles 74. The adjustable angle type nozzles 74 are provided with ball elements 75 and are pivotable within mating sockets 71 of the air port nozzle ring 70. The nozzles 74 are adjusted so that the passage center lines of adjacent fixed and adjustable nozzles intersect at a desired point, produce either mild or strong turbulence, and minimize or eliminate undesired acoustic vibrations.

The blade ring forming the subject matter of the present application, by contrast, includes guide blades with a uniform inclination angle for producing non-interacting air jets. Each

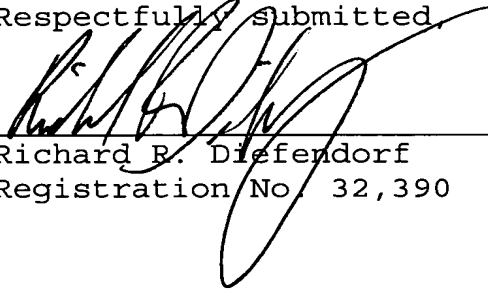
of the individual guide blades of the invention is pivotable and has a pivot axis which runs almost horizontally. The guide blades are fixable with a pivot angle which is adapted to particular requirements so as to optimize the flow direction of the fluid. Advantages of the invention are set forth on pages 3 and 4 of the specification. Adjustment of the inclination, with a pivot angle in the range of approximately 30° to approximately 150°, is particularly advantageous when the blade ring consists of a plurality of polygonal segments which are at least partially planar and not curved. The nozzles 74 of the Eisinger patent do not constitute guide blades as claim 1 requires, and the Eisinger patent does not disclose a blade ring or an air port ring with pivotable guide blades as claim 1 defines. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and the claims depending thereon are requested.

It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance in its present form. Should the Examiner

have any questions after considering this Reply, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney so that such questions can be answered.

July 16, 1999

Respectfully submitted,



Richard R. Diefendorf
Registration No. 32,390

EVENSON, McKEOWN, EDWARDS
& LENAHA, P.L.L.C.
1200 G Street, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005
Telephone No.: (202) 628-8800
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844